

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

1. to 32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) A function carrier comprising a functional element and a rivet sleeve, said function carrier being adapted for insertion into a metal or plastic plate having a first and a second side and a hole extending from said first side towards said second side, said hole having an internal diameter, said functional element comprising a head part having an external diameter corresponding to said internal diameter, a shaft part having an axial direction and a rounded concave fillet in a transition region between said shaft part and said head part, said rivet sleeve having a tubular deformable region adjacent said head part and a ring region remote from said head part, said ring region having an external diameter greater than said internal diameter and said rivet sleeve being movable in said axial direction along said shaft part and said tubular deformable region over said rounded concave fillet to deform said tubular deformable region radially outwardly to a maximum diameter greater than said external diameter thereby forming a groove between said radially outwardly deformed region and said ring region.

34. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 1 and adapted to trap material of said plate in said groove.

35. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 1, wherein said ring region or said rivet sleeve is a substantially non-deformable region.

36. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said ring region is a deformable region.

37. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said rivet sleeve has an end face remote from said head part, said end face being disposed perpendicular to said axial direction.

38. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 37, wherein said end face is formed as a sliding surface.

39. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 37, wherein said end face is formed for the transmission of rivet forces acting in said axial direction but is not itself deformable or is at least substantially not deformable under the riveting forces.

40. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 37, wherein said end face is adapted to take up torques which turn said rivet sleeve and bring about deformation of the rivet sleeve.

41. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 40, wherein said shaft part has an outer thread, at least in a region adjacent to said concave fillet and wherein said rivet sleeve has an internal thread corresponding thereto.

42. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 1, wherein said shaft part has a means for the transmission of torques at an end remote from said head part.

43. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 9, wherein said means is a spigot having one or more side faces or longitudinal grooves.

44. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 42, wherein said means has the form of a tool or wrench receiving recess formed in a free end of said shaft part.

45. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said shaft part has a ring groove in a region directly ahead of said concave fillet and wherein said ring region of said rivet sleeve is adapted to be deformed into said ring groove.

46. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said concave fillet is provided with features providing security against rotation and wherein said rivet sleeve is deformable into a form-fitted connection with said features providing security against rotation.

47. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 46, wherein said features providing security against rotation comprise at least one of recesses and noses distributed in a peripheral direction around said concave fillet.

48. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said head part has an end face remote from said shaft part, said end face being provided with features providing security against rotation.

49. (New) A function in accordance with claim 36, wherein said ring region of said rivet sleeve has, when considered in a radial section, at least substantially the shape of a right-angled triangle, having an outer side which is arranged obliquely to said end face of said rivet sleeve remote from said head part and to an inner face of said rivet sleeve adjacent said shaft part.

50. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said tubular deformable region of said rivet sleeve has an inner wall representing an axial continuation of an inner surface of said ring region of said rivet sleeve.

51. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said tubular region of said rivet sleeve is at least substantially rectangular when considered in radial section, with said tubular region having an inner wall which represents an axial continuation of an inner surface of said ring-like region of said rivet sleeve and wherein said ring region of said rivet sleeve forms a ring shoulder at its outer side with an adjacent side of said ring region.

52. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said function carrier is formed as a bolt element.

53. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said function carrier is formed as a nut element.

54. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 53, wherein at least said shaft part is made hollow and at least one of said shaft part and/or said head part is formed with an internal thread.

55. (New) A function carrier in accordance with claim 33 in combination with a metal or plastic plate having said first and second sides and said hole, said hole having a marginal region and said marginal region being trapped in said groove.

56. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 55, wherein said hole defines a pot-like recess having a base and an end face of said head part remote from said shaft part contacts said base in a manner secured against rotation and a radially outwardly deformed end of said rivet sleeve projecting radially outwardly beyond said head part projects into a sidewall of said pot-like recess.

57. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 55, wherein said rivet sleeve has an end face remote from said head part, said end face being arranged on one of said first surface remote from said head part and sunk into said surface.

58. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 57, said ring region of said rivet sleeve projecting radially into a groove of said shaft part.

59. (New) A component assembly in accordance with claim 58, wherein said rivet sleeve has a conical alignment aid in a region adjacent said groove, said conical alignment aid being disposed concentric to said shaft part for aligning a component to be mounted on said component assembly.

60. (New) A method of inserting a function carrier comprising a functional element and a rivet sleeve into a metal or plastic plate having a first and a second side and a hole extending from said first side towards said second side, said hole having an internal diameter, said functional element comprising a head part having an external diameter corresponding to said internal diameter, a shaft part having an axial direction and a rounded concave fillet in a transition region between said shaft part and said head part, said rivet sleeve having a tubular deformable region adjacent said head part and a ring region remote from said head part, said ring region having an external diameter greater than said internal diameter, the method comprising the steps of passing said head part from said first side through said hole formed in said plate until said ring region contacts said first side, subsequently moving said rivet sleeve in said axial direction, thereby deforming said tubular deformable region at said concave fillet to deflect said tubular deformable region radially outwardly into an anchoring position in which a free end of said tubular region projects radially beyond said head part, trapping material of said plate in a groove formed between said ring region and said radially outwardly projecting deflected tubular region.

61. (New) A method in accordance with claim 60, wherein the free end of the tubular region is pressed into the hole wall of the component by the deformation of the tubular region of the rivet sleeve and thus prevents the extraction of the function carrier out of the recess of the component receiving the head part of the function carrier.

62. (New) A method in accordance with claim 60, wherein said groove receives material provided at a marginal edge of said hole.

63. (New) A method in accordance with claim 62, wherein said ring region of said rivet sleeve is deformed into a ring groove formed in said shaft part directly ahead of the concave fillet.

64. (New) A method in accordance with claim 60, wherein said rivet sleeve is moved in said axial direction towards said concave fillet while an axial force in an opposite direction is produced on said shaft part of said functional element.

65. (New) A method in accordance with claim 60, wherein said ring region of the rivet sleeve has an internal thread which is screwed onto an external thread provided on the shaft part of the functional element and radial deformation of the tubular region of the rivet sleeve is produced by a relative rotation between said rivet sleeve and said functional element.

66. (New) A method in accordance with claim 60, wherein an auxiliary tool provided with a thrust bearing having first and second rings and rolling elements disposed therebetween is used for the deformation of said rivet sleeve, with said first ring having an end face remote from said rolling elements which presses against an end face of said ring region of said rivet sleeve and said second ring being provided at a rotatable sleeve which has an internal thread which cooperates with an external thread provided on said shaft part of said functional element, with rotation of said rotatable sleeve relative to said external thread of said shaft part of said functional element leading to an axial movement of said thrust bearing and of the rivet sleeve and through this to a deformation of said rivet sleeve at said concave fillet of said functional element.

67. (New) Tool for the insertion of a function carrier comprising a functional element and a rivet sleeve into a metal or plastic plate having a first and a second side and a hole extending from said first side towards said second side, said hole having an internal diameter, said functional element comprising a head part having an external diameter corresponding to said internal diameter, a shaft part having an axial direction and a rounded concave fillet in a transition region between said shaft part and said head part, said rivet sleeve having a tubular deformable region adjacent said head part and a ring region remote from said head part, said ring region having an external diameter greater than said internal diameter and said rivet sleeve being movable in said axial direction along said shaft part and said tubular deformable region over said rounded

concave fillet to deform said tubular deformable region radially outwardly to a maximum diameter greater than said external diameter thereby forming a groove between said radially outwardly deformed region and said ring region, wherein said tool has inner and outer coaxial devices rotatable relative to one another, with the inner device being adapted for a rotationally fixed connection to said shaft part of said functional element and said outer device being adapted for a rotationally fixed connection to one of said rivet sleeve and an auxiliary tool which presses onto said rivet sleeve, with one of said ring region of the rivet sleeve and said outer device having an inner thread which cooperates with an outer thread provided on the shaft part of said functional element.

68. (New) A tool in accordance with claim 67, wherein said auxiliary tool is formed as a thrust bearing having rolling elements, said thrust bearing having a first ring with an end face remote from said rolling elements which presses against an end face of said ring region of said rivet sleeve and a second ring provided on a rotatable sleeve having an internal thread which cooperates with an external thread provided on the shaft part of said functional element, with rotation of said rotatable sleeve relative to said external thread of said shaft part of said functional element leading to an axial movement of said thrust bearing and of the rivet sleeve and through this to a deformation of said rivet sleeve at said concave fillet of said functional element.

69. (New) Function carrier in accordance with claim 33, wherein said ring region of the rivet sleeve has noses and/or recesses at a side confronting said plate to provide a security against rotation.

70. (New) A function carrier comprising a functional element and a rivet sleeve, said functional element comprising a head part having an external diameter, a shaft part having an axial direction and a rounded concave fillet in a transition region between said shaft part and said head part, said rivet sleeve having a tubular deformable region adjacent said head part and a ring region remote from said head part, said ring region having an external diameter substantially greater than said external diameter and said rivet sleeve being movable in said axial direction along said shaft part and said

tubular deformable region over said rounded concave fillet to deform said tubular deformable region radially outwardly to a maximum diameter greater than said external diameter thereby forming a groove between said radially outwardly deformed region and said ring region.